

In most cases, the Federal agency is in the best position to assess the skills of their workers and arrange reemployment training and outplacement assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I feel these bills make an important statement to the Federal workforce—this Congress appreciates their hard work and dedication in serving this country, and during this time of downsizing, we are committed to assuring that there is stability in their lives too.

WHAT HAVE THE GINGRICH REPUBLICANS DONE FOR AMERICA?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, as this year comes to a close the American people should be aware of some facts about the new GINGRICH-controlled mean-spirited radical Republican Congress. The list of achievements of this Congress will go down in history as the worst since the beginning of this country. What have the Gingrich Republicans done for America? Well for one they have closed down the Government twice. No other Congress ever achieved that. They have threatened senior citizens with reductions in their health care. No other Congress has ever done that. They have offered the most wealthy in this country a huge tax break while raising taxes of poor working Americans. No other Congress has ever done that. They have removed the word compromise from Government. No other Congress has ever done that. They have threatened to turn back environmental gains over the last 20 years. No other Congress has ever done that. They have cut school lunches and food for the poor. No other Congress has ever done that. And finally, they have called themselves the family-friendly Congress while putting hundreds of thousands of Federal workers on furlough at Christmas time. No other Congress has ever done that. What a sad record of achievement, but certainly one no other Congress has ever had.

Mr. Speaker, people who knowingly break rules are cheaters. People who write the rules and then blatantly break them for their own benefit are even worse. The new Gingrich House passed new rules for this House last January which limited committee membership to two committees, and four subcommittees. Every Democrat in this House is abiding by those rules. How about the majority. Twenty-nine members of the majority are serving on more than four subcommittees. Nineteen Republicans are serving on more than two full committees. You wrote the rules and all year you have blatantly broken the rules. Perhaps this Christmas Eve you can go home to your families and instead of reading the "Night Before Christmas" you can instead tell your children how breaking

rules for their own benefit is good. Be sure and tell them that rules are for everyone else not them. Nearly 30 percent of the new Republican Members that came here in January are violating the rules, they pushed for. So much for honesty and fairness in the House of Representatives as controlled by the Gingrich radical Republicans.

□ 1815

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. ENGLISH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. KIM addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE ON BOOK ROYALTIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last week the bipartisan House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct unanimously passed a resolution in response to a complaint involving Speaker GINGRICH'S \$4.5 million book deal with Harper Collins. Together, five Republicans and five Democrats agreed that the Speaker's book deal gave the appearance of capitalizing on public office. The committee has proposed changing the rules of this House to avoid any future allegations of Members cashing in on public office in this manner.

The rule change would limit outside royalty income to \$20,400 a year, and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct promised that that proposal would come up on to the floor before Christmas. I might add that the \$20,400 is the amount of outside earned income that Members cannot earn from a variety of different kinds of professions that they might be in.

The only exception has been the book royalty exemption, and what this resolution is about is to try to close that loophole which was heightened by the fact that the Speaker was in the process of a \$4.5 million book deal with Harper Collins last year.

The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is charged with establish-

ing the bounds of acceptable behavior for Members of this institution. That bipartisan committee has made a unanimous decision that accepting millions of dollars of outside income in the form of book royalties is beyond the bounds of acceptable behavior. I might add that after weeks and weeks of delay in this effort of bringing this resolution to the floor, that I understand from the colloquy that was held on the floor to-night with the majority leader, that in fact the resolution will come up tomorrow, and I applaud that decision. There had been a fair amount of stonewalling on this issue, despite the work of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and the work of the chairperson of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

It is time to allow this Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to do its job. Bring this rule change to the floor of the House for a vote, and I know that I will follow the recommendations of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct members, and I suspect that most Members of this House, of the people's House, will follow the lead of Committee on Standards of Official Conduct members.

My hope is that that resolution will be on the floor tomorrow morning before we depart here for the holidays. We must deal with this issue; we must remove any cloud or anything that puts into question whether or not a Member is using his or her office for personal gain. That is not why people in our districts give us the faith and trust that they do to come here and vote on their behalf. Our time, our effort, has to be focused on their interests, what their concerns are in their lives. That is why we hold these offices.

So I am pleased that this will come up tomorrow. We do not need any more delays. Finally, I do believe that the majority of this house will vote and follow the lead of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct members.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MICA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

ONE TRAGEDY AFTER ANOTHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I awakened this morning, as many Americans did, absolutely riveted and saddened by hearing about the great airline tragedy that had happened in Colombia. I think every one of us identifies with that and thinks of what a horror this is during the holiday period, and we all send great condolences to the families. There is just nothing anyone can say.